

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 3 have been cancelled.

New claims 4 through 7 have been submitted.

In the Office Action claims 1 through 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burroughs et al 5,921,038 in view of the disclosure of the patent to Bates, Jr., 2,648,107.

The Burroughs structure is unitary with a series of pronounced ribs at 74 best shown in Fig. 4. No pan members are in overlapping relationship.

The patent to Bates, Jr. discloses a moisture deflector for reception of moisture from a superimposed sill. The deflector includes flanges 19 with the flanges in overlapped relationship. The overlap positioning of the flanges 19 necessarily results in an undesirable gap between the underside of sill 10 and a flange 19.

The Action contends that it would hence have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the present art to modify the Burroughs et al structure to provide multiple pan members in partial overlapping relationship to provide for a specific sill length. The Burroughs molded structure, being unitary and of considerable depth, render same incapable of being in lapped relationship with a second component of the Burroughs design. With attention to Fig. 4 of Burroughs, the overlapping of Burroughs diverters would result in an unacceptable large gap between sill 46 and the proposed overlapping Burroughs diverters at 10. No center section is shown in either reference.

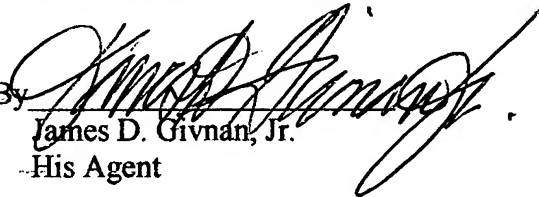
Applicant has invented a sill pan providing stable support for a sill with drainage channels 13 in end members 5 and 6 while supporting a sill in a stable, weatherproof

manner on surfaces 12 and 19. Upright channel as at 15 provides downward discharge away from a superjacent sill and subjacent subflooring of a building structure. The end segments 12A of applicant's sill pan, being of reduced wall thickness, permit the horizontal surfaces 12 of the end members and the horizontal surface 19 of center section 9 to be coplanar contributing to sill stability.

Claims 4, 5, 6 and 7 are believed to define patentable structure and accordingly, allowance of the new claims is courteously solicited and believed to be in order.

Respectfully submitted,

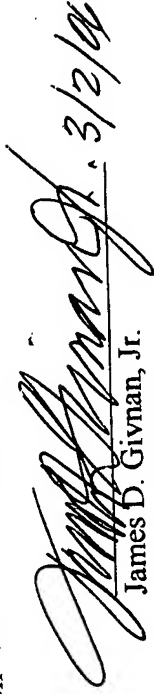
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class main in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D. C. on March 2, 2006.


James D. Givnan, Jr.
Applicant's Agent

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